

## **COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

Board Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2009 – 1:00pm – 2:00pm  
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A  
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

**CHOICE Board Members in Attendance:** Prudence Twigg, Pete Emigh, John Holmes, Jean Macdonald, Kay Crawford, Nick Petrone, Blake Jackson, Dorian Maples, Noble Stallons, Senator Jean Breaux

**CHOICE Board Members Absent:** Senator Vaneta Becker, Dr. Timothy Janis

**Visitors in Attendance:** Tina Boneff, June Holt, Lorealee Moore, Maren McGrane, Elliott Patrick, Becky Carter, Rick Maples, Becky Johnson, Cindy Wides, Ann Allen, Paul Chase, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Dave Sander, Justine Currie, John Cardwell, Megan Ornellas, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Prudence Twigg called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval from the Board.

**Division of Aging Update:** Director Megan Ornellas provided the Division of Aging update. She reported the number of people receiving home and community based services continues to increase. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, the number of people receiving services through the waiver programs has increased 26%. The CHOICE waitlist has decreased substantially since the beginning of the fiscal year. There was discussion on acuity levels and the Minimum Data Set, or MDS.

Board member Blake Jackson inquired about a budget cut to the CHOICE program. Director Ornellas responded that there was no budget yet but there were no current plans for a reduction. Director Ornellas said the Division of Aging will send the CHOICE Board members information about the next Quarterly Financial Review.

Board member Jean Macdonald asked if there would be any stimulus money for the CHOICE program. Director Ornellas responded that all the stimulus dollars were targeted for specific programs and Indiana's nutrition program benefited from the stimulus money.

**Old Business:** Jade Luchauer provided data on clients served as a percentage of the overall population in response to a request by Board member Dr. Janis.

The CHOICE Board members congratulated the Division of Aging and all Area Agencies on Aging for the decrease in the CHOICE waitlist.

Celeste Stinson said that there is still one vacancy on the Board for a home care services advocate or policy specialist. She asked the Board to provide her the name of anyone who may be interested in the open position and she will send an application to that person.

**New Business:** Board member John Holmes said he thinks the CHOICE Board should go on record as advocating for full funding for the CHOICE program. Chairperson Prudence Twigg asked the Board if they would like to discuss this. Board member Jean Macdonald said she agreed with John. She stated that as CHOICE is utilized as a preventative measure, there will be financial savings in the long run. Board member Pete Emigh said he agreed and it is a moral issue to help people that cannot help themselves.

Board member Holmes made a motion to go on record as advocating for full funding for the CHOICE program of at least the present level. The motion was seconded by Board member Pete Emigh and was passed with unanimous approval from the CHOICE Board. CHOICE Board member Nick Petrone abstained from the vote. In light of his position as a State employee and Deputy Director of the Division of Family Resources, he did not believe it was appropriate for him to vote on this specific matter.

Board member Jean Macdonald recommended the measure be sent to all legislators. Chairperson Prudence Twigg said she will send the document to Jean, who will distribute it to all Indiana legislators.

**Public Comments:** John Cardwell thanked the Board for the resolution.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.